

Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Update

The Bureau of Homeland Security exists within the Military Division under the Executive Office of the Governor. It is broadly tasked (IC 46-10) with ensuring that Idaho's counties are able to respond to emergencies and disasters, both natural and man-caused, by having an organization capable of directing and coordinating response and recovery activities. BHS assists counties and cities in developing plans, in training personnel to implement the plans, and in exercises to test the operation of the plans. Emergency management is based on the principle of self-help, and BHS also assists jurisdictions in establishing mutual assistance compacts with each other for situations in which local resources are unable to meet the needs of the event. When resource needs exceed local capabilities, BHS facilitates State and Federal assistance.

BHS supports counties with area field officers in Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston, Boise, Twin Falls, Pocatello, and Rigby who provide insight into local issues and deliver State services tailored to their regions.

BHS is also tasked to recommend strategies to reduce, or mitigate, the harmful effects of disasters. In carrying out this task, BHS administers Federal grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency/Department of Homeland Security to assist counties in developing plans for reducing the structural, economic, and social impact of earthquakes, landslides, interface fires, floods, and severe storms. BHS also assists communities to implement projects identified in their plans.

Funding for Mitigation Planning and Projects

Planning is a prerequisite for project implementation. BHS develops and maintains a state plan for hazard mitigation to ensure State eligibility for Federal disaster assistance programs. Federal law also requires that counties and communities have local all-hazard mitigation plans in order to be eligible for Federal assistance for mitigation projects. Federal regulations define the form and content of these plans, and BHS provides funding to counties to develop their own plans.

Though the requirements are for plans that address multiple hazards, BHS recognizes that not all counties have the financial resources to complete all-hazard plans initially. Therefore, communities that have an identified hazard from wildland urban interface fires can begin the planning process with this hazard and expand it as resources allow. For this reason, the format of the FEMA-required plan will facilitate further updating.



Our mission is:

To save life and to limit human suffering, injury to wildlife, damage to natural resources, private and public property, the environment and the economy as a result of the harmful affects of natural and man-caused disasters, from all hazards, including terrorism and the use of Weapons of Mass Destruction, in support of local governments and communities.